

NEWS RELEASE

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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BELLEVILLE BANK OF AMERICA ROBBER PLEADS GUILTY

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that **JAMES STOECKL**, age 43, of Belleville, Illinois, pled guilty on November 30, 2005, in Federal District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to two counts of bank robbery, felonies, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a). The maximum penalty that can be imposed for each count is not more than 20 years' incarceration, not more than a \$250,000 fine, or both, and up to 3 years' supervised release. Sentencing is set for February 27, 2006, at 10:00 a.m.

According to the Stipulation of Facts filed at the time of the plea, on April 29, 2005, a single male wearing a ski mask robbed the Bank of America facility located within the Schnuck's Supermarket located at 110 Carlyle Plaza, in Belleville, Illinois, escaping with \$4,573.00. A customer in the supermarket followed the masked robber from the bank and saw him drive away from the parking lot. Based on the vehicle description phoned in by the witness, **STOECKL** was stopped shortly thereafter and arrested by the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department. **STOECKL** was linked to the robbery of the same bank which occurred on March 11, 2005, in which \$2,225.00 was taken.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort of the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, the Belleville, Illinois, Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard H. Lloyd.